

Writing a Thesis Statement

Starting an Essay with Clear Direction

Time4Writing provides these teachers materials to teachers and parents at no cost.
More presentations, handouts, interactive online exercises, and video lessons are freely available at Time4Writing.com.
Consider linking to these resources from your school, teacher, or homeschool educational site.

The rules: These materials must maintain the visibility of the Time4Writing trademark and copyright information.
They can be copied and used for educational purposes. They are not for resale.

Want to give us feedback? We'd like to hear your views:

info@time4writing.com

What a Thesis Statement Does

- 1) It describes your topic, what your essay will be about.
- 2) It introduces a specific claim you are making about your topic.
- 3) It describes three ways in which you will support and develop your claim.

So the formula for a thesis statement is:
Subject + Claim + Three Points of Support

Subject
+
Claim
+
Three Points of Support

Let's look at this example:

"Going back to college was a complex process that involved researching a school, applying for admission, and enrolling in classes."

*Can you find the **three different components** in this thesis statement?*

Let's look at them this way:

"Going back to college was a complex process that involved researching a school, applying for admission, and enrolling in classes."

1.subject or topic

2.claim

3.three points of support

1) The Subject or Topic of the Essay:

"Going back to college..."

The essay is about **going back to college**.

But there is a lot to say on this subject, so now you have to **narrow it down to one specific claim**.

2) The Claim Made About the Subject or Topic of the Essay:

"Going back to college was a complex process..."

The topic is narrowed down to **the complexity** of going back to college. Now the topic is easier to talk about.

You just need to list
three points to support this claim.

3) Three Points of Support for the Claim:

"...a complex process that involved researching a school, applying for admission and enrolling in classes."

Three reasons going back to college is complex:

- 1) you need to research a school
- 2) you need to apply for admission
- 3) you need to enroll in classes

Supporting your Claim:

Your thesis statement comes in your introductory paragraph; then you need devote at least one paragraph for each supporting point.

One paragraph will be about researching a school.
The next paragraph will discuss applying for admission.
And the third paragraph will be about enrolling in classes.

These will be followed by the concluding paragraph, summarizing how these points prove your claim.

Remember the easy formula for a thesis statement!

Subject

+

Claim

+

Three Points of Support

The end.

More free ESSAY WRITING resources:

- the introduction
- the conclusion
- comparing & contrasting
- types of essays

Eight-week ESSAY WRITING courses:

- elementary school
- middle school
- high school